

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A joint prosthesis system for implantation in a patient, comprising:
 - a body having a central canal extending therethrough;
 - a head coupled to the body; and
 - a plurality of modular shafts including a first shaft coupled to the body and extending through the central canal into a bone of the patient [[;]] and a second replacement shaft, wherein the first shaft is interchangeable after implantation of the prosthesis by removing the first shaft from the bone and replacing the first shaft with the second replacement shaft without dislodging the body from the patient.
2. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the first shaft is coupled to the body via insertion of the shaft through an end of the central canal nearest an articular surface of the prosthesis and the first shaft is removed from the body by reversing the direction of insertion.
3. (Original) The joint prosthesis of claim 2, wherein the shaft is coupled to the body via a taper lock between the shaft and the body.
4. (Original) The joint prosthesis of claim 3, wherein the taper lock is a Morse taper lock.
5. (Original) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the joint prosthesis is configured to replace a hip joint.
6. (Original) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the joint prosthesis is configured to replace a shoulder joint.
7. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the second replacement shaft is an intramedullary nail.

8. (Currently Amended) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, wherein the second replacement shaft is longer than the shaft.

9. (Original) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, further comprising an insert coupled to the body and extending at least partially into the central canal.

10. (Original) The joint prosthesis of claim 9, wherein the insert is screwed into the central canal.

11. (Currently Amended) A modular joint prosthesis having an articular surface for implantation in a patient, comprising:

a body coupled to the articular surface; and
a shaft coupled to the body and ~~configured to extend~~ extending into a long bone of the patient;

wherein the shaft may be removed from the patient after implantation of the prosthesis without also removing the body.

12. (Previously Presented) The modular joint prosthesis of claim 11, further comprising a central canal in the body in which the shaft is received.

13. (Previously Presented) The modular joint prosthesis of claim 12, wherein the shaft is coupled to the body via insertion of the shaft through an end of the central canal nearest the articular surface and the shaft is removed from the body by reversing the direction of insertion.

14. (Previously Presented) The modular joint prosthesis of claim 13, wherein the shaft is coupled to the body via a taper lock between the shaft and the body.

15. (Previously Presented) The modular joint prosthesis of claim 12, further comprising an insert coupled to the body and extending at least partially into the central canal.

16. (Original) The modular joint prosthesis of claim 15, wherein the insert is screwed into the central canal.

17. (Original) The modular joint prosthesis of claim 11, wherein the joint prosthesis is configured to replace a hip joint.

18. (Original) The modular joint prosthesis of claim 11, wherein the joint prosthesis is configured to replace a shoulder joint.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of replacing a shaft of a joint prosthesis having a body, a head, and a shaft after the joint prosthesis has been implanted in a patient, comprising:
creating an access aperture in the patient for access to the joint prosthesis;
removing the shaft from the patient without removing the body or the head;
inserting a replacement shaft into the patient;
coupling the replacement shaft to the body;
locking the replacement shaft into place in the patient; and
closing the access aperture.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the body has an aperture configured to receive the shaft or the replacement shaft and wherein the coupling step includes inserting the replacement shaft into the aperture.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising coupling an insert to the body, the insert extending at least partially into the aperture.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the replacement shaft is an intramedullary nail.

23. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the replacement shaft is longer than the shaft.

24. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the shaft is removed with the aid of a shaft removal device.

25. (Currently Amended) A modular joint prosthesis system, comprising:
a body;
an articular surface coupled to the body; and
a plurality of modular shafts comprising a first shaft extending into a bone and
configured to be coupled to the body[[;]] and a second replacement shaft configured to be
coupled to the body, wherein the second replacement shaft is used to replace the first shaft in the
bone after implantation of the prosthesis into a patient without first removing the body from the
patient.

26. (Original) The modular joint prosthesis system of claim 25, wherein the first shaft
is coupled to the body via insertion of the first shaft through an end of a central canal in the body
nearest the articular surface and the shaft is removed from the body by reversing the direction of
insertion.

27. (Currently Amended) The modular joint prosthesis system of claim 26, wherein
the second replacement shaft is coupled to the body via insertion of the second replacement shaft
through the end of the central canal nearest the articular surface.

28. (Currently Amended) The modular joint prosthesis system of claim 25, wherein
the first shaft is coupled to the body via a taper lock between the first shaft and the body.

29. (Original) The modular joint prosthesis system of claim 28, wherein the taper
lock is a Morse taper lock.

30. (Original) The modular joint prosthesis system of claim 26, further comprising an
insert coupled to the body.

31. (Original) The modular joint prosthesis system of claim 30, wherein the insert is screwed into the central canal.

32. (Original) The modular joint prosthesis system of claim 25, wherein the joint prosthesis is configured to replace a hip joint.

33. (Original) The modular joint prosthesis system of claim 25, wherein the joint prosthesis is configured to replace a shoulder joint.

34. (Currently Amended) The modular joint prosthesis system of claim 25, wherein the second replacement shaft is an intramedullary nail.

35. (Currently Amended) The modular joint prosthesis system of claim 25, wherein the second replacement shaft is longer than the first shaft.

36. (Original) The modular joint prosthesis system of claim 25, further comprising a shaft removal device configured to be coupled to the first shaft.

37. (Original) The modular joint prosthesis system of claim 36, wherein the first shaft includes a threaded recess and the shaft removal device includes a threaded portion configured to be screwed into the threaded recess to couple the shaft removal device to the first shaft.

38. (Original) The modular joint prosthesis system of claim 25, further comprising a head coupled to the body, the head having the articular surface.

39. (Previously Presented) The joint prosthesis of claim 38, further comprising a neck connected to the body, wherein the head is coupled to the body via the neck.

40. (Previously Presented) The joint prosthesis of claim 1, further comprising a neck connected to the body, wherein the head is coupled to the body via the neck.

41. (Currently Amended) An artificial joint system, comprising:
a body having a central canal defined therein;

a prosthetic head coupled to the body;
a plurality of modular shafts including a first shaft extending at least partially through the central canal into a bone and an intramedullary nail configured to be inserted into the central canal to replace the first shaft;

a locking element configured to be screwed into the central canal to lock the first shaft into place; and

a shaft removal device configured to remove the first shaft from the central canal; and

wherein the an intramedullary nail configured to be inserted into the central canal and is locked into place by the locking element after removal of the first shaft, wherein the intramedullary nail is longer than the first shaft.